DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Quinlan DATE 5-9-83
RDS ☐ XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
EXCISE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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February 4, 1974

Mr. Edward Hammerbeck
Corporate Secretary for the
American Petroleum Institute
1801 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Hammerbeck:

I am pleased that we can communicate with you in case we are aware of terrorist threats against oil companies in general. We shall continue to inform individual oil companies who may be objects of specific threats, but I want to be certain that in cases of general threats we give companies even-handed treatment.

Enclosed is a statement by the terrorist group PFLP which is involved in the current Singapore incident and which continues to bear more than a grudge against Shell and other oil companies. The terrorists in this incident are apparently asking to be transported to an Arab country, where they hope to gain their freedom. The other group in the incident are the Japanese Red Army, which has performed in the past in the Lod airport massacre and other vicious crimes.

The PFLP spokesman in Beirut made the following additional comment at the time of the release of the enclosed text: "The operation is a warning to oil monopolistic exploiting companies on the one hand and to imperialism in general that Arab revolutionaries together with the world progressive forces will not be subdued by the vicious attacks our masses are subjected to these days in the Middle East."

While the enclosures are unclassified, I would appreciate your transmitting them, along with the above, with special discretion so as not to reveal "to the other side" how we are collaborating with you to improve the security of your overseas companies.

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Enclosed also is a copy of the last report to the Secretary of State to the Congress on the work which the Cabinet Committee and its subordinate Working Group (which I chair) are mandated by the President to perform to cope with the continuing international terrorist threat. Enclosed as well is a leaflet on general tips for businessmen with overseas interests which might be made available discreetly to your corporate clients.

Sincerely,

Lewis Hoffacker
Special Assistant
to the Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Statement by PFLP
2. International Terrorism: An Excerpt from United States Foreign Policy 1972 - a Report of the Secretary of State
3. General Security Tips for U.S. Businessmen Abroad

not attached to file copy

Copies Furnished:

Mr. Gentile - A/SY
Mr. Bouchard - M
Mr. Bennsky - EB
Mr. Browne - S/CCT

S/CCT:LHoffacker:nwh

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QUESTION: What is the U.S. position regarding the code?

ANSWER: The U.S. is concerned about the health aspects addressed by the draft code. We believe that the code should be voluntary to give the flexibility which will permit each country to take action appropriate to its domestic circumstances. We also believe that the code must be non-discriminatory in its treatment of all firms, domestic and foreign.

The U.S. has raised some questions regarding many specific provisions of the draft code which could clash with U.S. domestic policies on such issues as freedom of expression and anti-trust laws. Much progress has been made, however, in achieving the flexibility needed for U.S. support of the code.

QUESTION: Why is it important to the U.S. that the code be a voluntary one?

ANSWER: Adoption of a <u>voluntary</u> code would be consistent with the practice of code development throughout the international community and with the U.S. position on these codes. The U.S. believes that the principles of a code can be most effectively achieved if the code is in the form of recommendations. Since the WHO is comprised of many countries of diverse economic, political and social structures, a code which takes the form of recommendations would allow each country the flexibility of implementing some (or all) of its provisions in a manner suitable to the country's individual needs.

QUESTION: Has the U.S. Government discussed the development of the code with private groups?

ANSWER: There has been considerable discussion and negotiation on the code between government officials and representatives of consumer groups and manufacturers. As soon as WHO was authorized by its members to begin drafting a code, an inter-agency group (comprising over ten government agencies) was established to coordinate the U.S. position. This inter-agency group has worked extensively with representatives of both consumer groups and infant formula manufacturers; via meetings and the telephone. The negotiations have proved invaluable in developing a U.S. position that attempts to address relevant domestic concerns.

In addition, WHO has provided several opportunities for governments and private groups to participate in the drafting of the code. Participants from the U.S. have made considerable contributions in these negotiating sessions.